



## From IEMA Director James K. Joseph

The public safety community suffered a major loss this week (the following was issued by the Illinois State Police on June 28).

*"Illinois State Police (ISP) Director Leo P. Schmitz regrettably announces that ISP Trooper Ryan Albin, star number 5718, was tragically killed today while on patrol.*

*Today at approximately 3:10 p.m. Trooper Albin was involved in a crash on I-74 near Farmer City. Trooper Albin sustained serious injuries as a result of the crash. At approximately 8:45 p.m., Trooper Albin succumbed to his injuries.*

*"Our hearts are heavy with grief as we mourn the loss of Trooper Albin," stated Director Schmitz. "I extend my deepest sympathy to Trooper Albin's family, friends and co-workers. I pray that those who cared for and loved him find the strength they need during this most difficult time. No further words can express the pain and loss we are all feeling."*

*Trooper Albin joined the ISP on January 8, 2006. He was assigned to District 6 in Pontiac as a canine officer. Trooper Albin's canine partner, "Biko," was in the rear of the squad car at the time of the crash. Biko was transported to a local veterinarian's office and appears to have sustained only minor injuries.*

*The crash remains under investigation. No additional information is available at this time."*

Please keep the family of Trooper Albin in your thoughts and prayers. This tragedy once again reminds us of the dangers many in public safety face on a daily basis in order to protect the residents they serve.



**Illinois State Police Trooper  
Ryan Albin**

## In this issue

<b>2017 IEMA Training Summit.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Training Enhances Partnerships for Effective Response .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>State Begins Review of Proposed FirstNet Plan .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Legislative Initiatives Approved by General Assembly.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Hometown Awards to Include Disaster Services Category .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>FEMA V Seminar Highlights Available Defense Support .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Senior Staff Spotlight: Patti Thompson .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Evans Attends National Meeting on Radiation Monitoring .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Follow Local Fireworks Ordinances, Safety Tips.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Important Deadlines .....</b>	<b>7</b>

# 2017 IEMA Training Summit

## Registration Now Open for 2017 IEMA Training Summit

More breakout sessions, dynamic general session speakers and plenty of networking opportunities are just part of what awaits you at the 2017 IEMA Training Summit, which will be held Sept. 5-7 at the Bank of Springfield (BOS) Center (formerly the Prairie Capital Convention Center) in historic downtown Springfield.

The new venue name is not the only fresh aspect to this year's summit. The first day, Tuesday, Sept. 5, is no longer a pre-conference day. Director James Joseph will kick off the three-day event at 1 p.m., followed by keynote speaker Frank DeAngelis, principal at Columbine High School during the deadly shootings there, and a panel discussion on lessons learned from planned events, including the Cubs' World Series celebration, a Luke Bryan concert in Effingham and a community festival in Naperville.

Another first for the 2017 Training Summit is the post-summit sessions being offered on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 7, including FEMA's four-hour course detailing procurement requirements for services and supplies with federal funding under a Stafford Act disaster declaration.

Check out the full agenda and register today at [www.illinois.gov/iema](http://www.illinois.gov/iema).

## Exhibitor Early Bird Deadline is July 15

There's never been a better time to be an exhibitor at the IEMA Training Summit! With the full summit beginning on Tuesday afternoon, sponsors and exhibitors will enjoy maximum exposure to summit participants.

The exhibition area will be directly adjacent to the registration desk, as it was for the 2016 summit. In addition, this year's Vendor Networking Reception will immediately follow the general sessions in the Main Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 5. Attendees leaving the



session will walk directly through the exhibit booth area and be encouraged to enjoy hors d'oeuvres as they browse the exhibits.

Don't miss out on Early Bird exhibitor prices, which end July 15! Get more information about sponsor and exhibitor opportunities at [www.illinois.gov/iema](http://www.illinois.gov/iema).

## Memorial Wall Submissions

During the annual training summit, IEMA recognizes individuals who served in emergency management and have passed away over the past 12 months. The Memorial Wall memorializes those who served in any emergency management capacity, whether paid or volunteer. Since its inception in 2009, 112 people have been added to the Memorial Wall.

A tribute to those on the Memorial Wall is held during the opening ceremonies at each training summit. In addition, a permanent display of the Memorial Wall is located in the front lobby of the State Emergency Operations Center in Springfield.

IEMA currently is seeking submissions for the 2017 Memorial Wall. If you know of someone who should be recognized on the Memorial Wall this year, please email the deceased's name, agency, position title and a photo to [doug.downey@illinois.gov](mailto:doug.downey@illinois.gov) by Aug. 1.



# Training Enhances Partnerships for Effective Response

Members of the Illinois National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) recently participated in a two-day radiological response and reception center training provided by IEMA.

Presentations covered radiation awareness, IEMA's Radiological Assessment Field Team (RAFT) instrumentation, the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents (IPRA) and the role of reception centers following an evacuation due to a nuclear power plant incident.

Following the presentations, attendees were directed to three work stations where they received hands-on instruction regarding personal radiation detector (PRD) and Radiation Isotope Identification Device (RIID) operation, RAFT instrumentation and personnel monitoring for radioactive contamination. Once the work station training was completed, the attendees observed a portal monitor set up and a walk-through of a mock reception center.

Upon completion of IEMA's portion of the training, the CERFP provided a demonstration of its new decontamination trailer.

On the second day, IEMA staff presented at an American Red Cross conference in Springfield. Training included an overview of the State Emergency Operations Center, the Radiological Emergency Assessment Center, IPRA, RAFT and reception center set up and operations, including FEMA's roles regarding oversight and evaluation of reception centers.



**CERFP staff perform operational checks of reception center instrumentation.**

After presentations concluded, CERFP used lessons learned from the previous day's training and set up a mock reception center in the venue. A simulated contaminated individual arrived at the mock reception center and moved through the portal monitor, removal of contaminated clothing, decontamination and re-monitoring process. A number of questions from the audience led to excellent conversation and reinforced Red Cross and IEMA's partnership and commitment to reception centers.



**IEMA staff members demonstrate portal monitor set up.**



**A CERFP member performs a contamination survey on a mannequin.**

# State Begins Review of Proposed FirstNet Plan

FirstNet recently provided IEMA Director James Joseph, as the governor-appointed single point of contact for the state, with access to the proposed FirstNet/AT&T plan for implementation and operation of the network within Illinois. The FirstNet Public/Private partnership venture is aimed at building, operating and maintaining a nationwide broadband data network designed to meet the distinct communications needs of public safety: interoperability, security, availability and reliability at the speed and level of efficiency required by first responders.

FirstNet resulted from the “Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.” As an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, FirstNet is required to establish a nationwide, interoperable public safety wireless broadband network to provide a single platform for daily, as well as emergency and crisis, public safety communications use.

Since 2013, representatives of the public safety community from the state, county and local levels of government in Illinois have spent considerable time and

energy meeting and educating the federal FirstNet team as to how such a network could best serve public safety personnel and residents of Illinois. The meetings also provided the state with the opportunity to share concerns about issues relating to system security, management, procedures, costs and other potential issues.

The Illinois FirstNet team, headed by Statewide Interoperability Coordinator Joe Galvin, will perform a preliminary review of the proposed plan, with secondary review and discussion with emergency responders to be conducted during three regional meetings in August.

The consensus recommendation of the group discussions will be forwarded to Governor Bruce Rauner for consideration and final determination of whether the state will opt-in and take advantage of FirstNet, or opt-out of participation in FirstNet and assume responsibility for building, operating and maintaining a network within the state that is interoperable with FirstNet.

Additional information regarding FirstNet is available at [www.FirstNet.com](http://www.FirstNet.com) or by contacting members of the Illinois team through the project website at [www.firstnet.illinois.gov](http://www.firstnet.illinois.gov).

## Legislative Initiatives Approved by General Assembly

This spring session, all six of IEMA's legislative initiatives were approved by both chambers of the General Assembly and currently are awaiting the governor's signature to be enacted into law. If signed, all of the initiatives would be effective on Jan. 1, 2018, except for the Bio-solids Clarification bill, which would be effective immediately.

The agency appreciates the support and leadership of Senators Pam Althoff (R-McHenry), Michael Connelly (R-Naperville), David Koehler (D-Peoria) and Sue Rezin (R-Peru) and Representatives Daniel Beiser (D-Alton), William Davis (D-East Hazel Crest), Mike Fortner (R-West Chicago), David Harris (R-Mount Prospect), Steven Reick (R-Woodstock) and Chris Welch (D-Westchester) as sponsors of IEMA's legislative agenda.

The initiatives included the following:

- **IEMA Training Summit Registration Fee** Allows IEMA to charge a small fee for the annual training summit if needed to cover expenses. (NOTE: there will not be a fee for the 2017 IEMA Training Summit.)
- **Bio-solids Clarification** Clarifies that Exceptional Quality biosolids are subject to the authority of IEMA as provided in the Nuclear Safety Law of 2004.
- **Low-Level Radioactive Waste Task Group** This group completed its statutory requirements and is no longer needed.
- **Radon-Resistant Building Codes Task Force Elimination** This task force completed its statutory responsibility and can be abolished.
- **Hazardous Material Advisory Board Elimination** This board is duplicative of the responsibilities of the State Emergency Response Commission and therefore unnecessary.
- **Radiologic Technologist Accreditation Advisory Board Elimination** Consolidates this board with the Radiation Protection Advisory Committee.

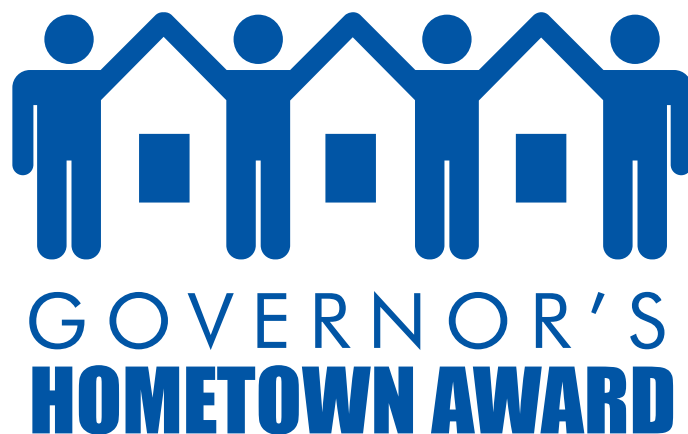


## Hometown Awards to Include Disaster Services Category

The Serve Illinois Commission currently is accepting applications for the Governor's Hometown Awards program. The program recognizes those who contributed to their community's quality of life through projects that had strong volunteer support, met a need and made a definitive impact.

The program includes six project categories, including disaster services. Projects such as training of citizens to be used in disaster preparedness, creation of a mitigation project to avoid future flooding damage, creating a public campaign to educate residents on what to do during a disaster, residents assisting first responders during an actual disaster, voluntary organizations coming together to help residents recover after a disaster, and other activities that fit into the disaster realm are applicable projects.

The Hometown Awards application is available at [www.serve.illinois.gov](http://www.serve.illinois.gov). All applications are due on Aug. 1. Additional information including a Frequently Asked Questions section that contains application instructions, is available on the website.



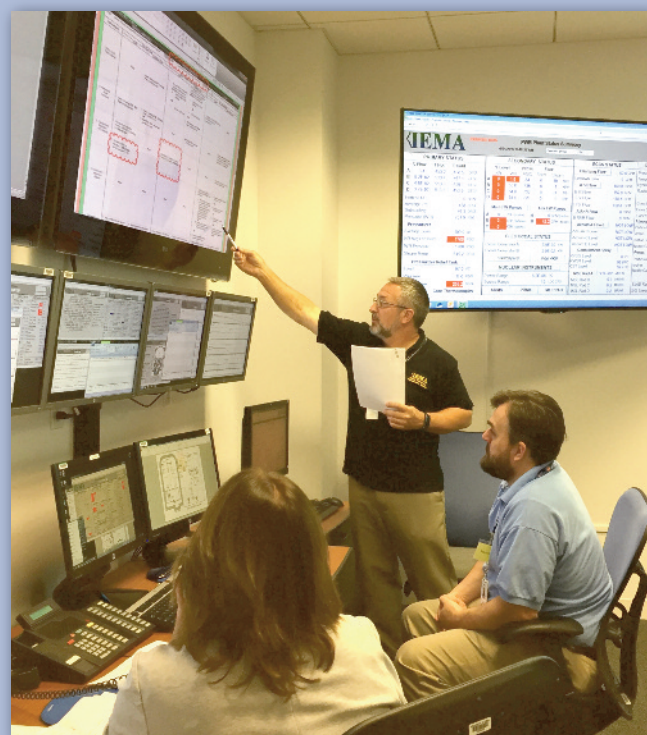
The Governor's Hometown Award previously was administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and recently transitioned to the Serve Illinois Commission.

The Serve Illinois Commission believes there are many deserving cities, counties, towns, townships and villages that deserve to be recognized for their work with volunteers. Please help the state recognize these projects by submitting an application.

## FEMA V Seminar Highlights Available Defense Support

Senior executives from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), federal, state and local agencies and the private sector recently participated in a NORTHCOM Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) executive seminar at FEMA Region V office in Chicago. IEMA Director James Joseph, Deputy Director Joe Klinger and Chief of Staff Jennifer Ricker were among those attending the two-day seminar.

The seminar was aimed at providing senior emergency managers with a full understanding of DoD capabilities to assist state and local responders during large-scale disasters and how DSCA operations are coordinated with civilian leads. The seminar provided a forum to discuss authorities, limitations, plans, procedures and command and control relationships. Attendees included Region V state emergency management directors and adjutant generals, senior DoD personnel, private sector officials, FEMA Assistant Administrator for Response Damon Penn and Acting FEMA Region V Administrator Jan Odesho.



**An IEMA reactor specialist explains the criteria and set points that were used by Exelon to declare an emergency classification as part of the scenario for the Byron nuclear plant pre-drill on June 21.**

## Senior Staff Spotlight: Patti Thompson

Someone recently commented to IEMA Communications Manager Patti Thompson that she had “been around forever.” While that’s not completely accurate, Thompson has been with at least part of the agency for nearly three decades.

A graduate of the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism, Thompson moved to Springfield from her hometown of Quincy soon after college graduation to work for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. She began working for the state of Illinois at the Secretary of State’s office and later worked as a press secretary to state representatives in the Illinois General Assembly. In 1989, she joined the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS), where she served as Director of Communications until the agency merged with IEMA in 2003.

While Thompson has been IEMA’s spokesperson since the merger, she actually was an employee of the state Department of Central Management Services within the Illinois Office of Communication and Information from August 2004 to December 2016. For two years during that period, she was the communications manager for both IEMA and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Thompson said it was more difficult to represent the agency when her office was located in a separate facility. While she appreciated the opportunity to get to know and learn from her colleagues from other state



**Communications Manager  
Patti Thompson**

agencies, Thompson said the remote location prevented daily interactions with the people and programs she represented. She is pleased to once again be a full-fledged IEMA employee.

In addition to serving as the agency’s media spokesperson, Thompson implements the Ready Illinois preparedness campaigns, writes and edits the monthly Inside IEMA newsletter, administers the Ready Illinois Facebook and Twitter pages, coordinates agency printing and graphic design requests, reviews and edits agency documents

and currently is the coordinator for the IEMA Training Summit planning committee. She also is the state’s lead spokesperson during activations of the State Emergency Operations Center for emergencies.

Thompson said her many years with IDNS and IEMA have provided countless memorable experiences, some funny, such as a blow-up reactor building at the IDNS State Fair display, and some heartbreaking, including seeing homes destroyed and lives shattered by various disasters.

Thompson lives in Springfield with her husband Stu. Her older son Zane is in law school at Loyola University in Chicago, while younger son Chase lives and works in Champaign. She is active in the Springfield Chapter of the Association of Women in Communications, where she has served as president, treasurer, scholarship chair and on the national conference planning committee.

## Evans Attends National Meeting on Radiation Monitoring

Ken Evans, of IEMA’s Bureau of Nuclear Facility Safety, recently attended a symposium on the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU) Report 92, “Radiation Monitoring for Protection of the Public after Major Releases of Radionuclides to the Environment.” Evans was invited to attend because he serves as chairman of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Director’s Committee on Emergency Response Planning (HS/ER-5).

The HS/ER-5 Committee works with federal partners such as

the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to ensure response to a radiological emergency is well integrated from the local to the federal level. The symposium focused on sharing findings and recommendations contained in ICRU Report 92.

Information from the symposium could be used to enhance Illinois’ radiological monitoring programs.

The symposium was held at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, and sponsored by DOE.

# Follow Local Fireworks Ordinances, Safety Tips

Fireworks are part of the traditions that help Americans celebrate the summer season, especially our Independence Day. A joyful celebration can quickly become a painful memory when children and adults are injured or killed while using fireworks. All fireworks, by their nature, are hazardous and capable of causing injuries.

Fireworks use in Illinois is regulated by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) or the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), depending on the type. The Illinois Explosives Act requires that anyone who purchases, possesses, uses, transfers, stores or disposes of explosives, including display fireworks, must have an explosives license and explosives storage certificate issued by the IDNR.

Licensing and storage requirements administered by IDNR do not apply to Consumer Fireworks, which are regulated by OSFM and are permitted only in villages, counties and municipalities that have passed ordinances allowing such displays. Consumer fireworks may be purchased and displayed only by adults who have obtained permits from their local jurisdiction. Hand-held fireworks, including fire crackers, roman candles and bottle rockets are not approved for sale or use in Illinois.

If your plans for the Fourth of July include fireworks, take the following steps to make sure your family and friends stay safe:

- Do not allow young children to play with fireworks. Sparklers, a firework often considered ideal for the young, burn at very high temperatures and should not be handled by young children.

- Older children should be permitted to use fireworks only under close adult supervision. Do not allow any running or horseplay.
- Set off fireworks outdoors in a clear area, away from houses, dry leaves or grass and other flammable materials.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies and for pouring on fireworks that fail to ignite or explode.
- Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never light fireworks in a container, especially a glass or metal container.
- Keep unused fireworks away from firing areas.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place. Check instructions for special storage directions.
- Never have any portion of your body directly over a firework while lighting.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.

Better yet, grab a blanket and a patch of lawn, kick back and let experts handle the show.

Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

*(Information for this article was obtained from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, National Fire Protection Association, American Pyrotechnics Association websites and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.)*

## Important Deadlines

*July 15<sup>th</sup>*

Illinois Professional  
Emergency Manager  
Applications for 2017  
must be postmarked no  
later than July 15.

*August 1<sup>st</sup>*

All county and accredited  
municipality annual training  
and exercise plans must be  
submitted no later than  
Aug. 1 to their regional  
offices.

*August 1<sup>st</sup>*

Illinois Professional  
Development Series  
Applications for 2017  
must be postmarked  
no later than Aug. 1.

Previous issues of Inside IEMA are available at:  
<http://www.illinois.gov/iema/Info/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>.



State of Illinois  
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

For more information on this newsletter, contact:

**Patti Thompson** • Public Information Officer: (217) 557-4756